

MORBIUS

THE LIVING VAMPIRE



AYALA
FERREIRA
POGGI
SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA

MICHAEL MORBIUS was born with a rare blood disorder. Seeking a cure at all costs, he accidentally inflicted strange vampiric powers upon himself, complete with an all-consuming bloodlust. Desperate to finally be healthy, he struggled and experimented for years to cure his condition and his painful hunger but to no avail.

Using materials taken from his raid on the Melter, Morbius thought he had found a breakthrough--instead, he has further mutated himself to a horrifying degree. Meanwhile, Melter has formed an uneasy alliance with a woman named Elizabeth, who plans to kill Morbius for a past betrayal.

Unable to control his urges, Morbius broke into a facility where he came face-to-face with the wall-crawling hero Spider-Man!

Morbius

THE LIVING VAMPIRE

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HOW DOES THAT EVEN WORK?

I DO NOT KNOW THE SPECIFICS OF HIS PROCESS.

WHAT I KNOW IS THAT HE HAS MANY OF THE STRENGTHS OF VAMPIRES BUT VERY FEW OF THE SAME WEAKNESSES.



SO HE'S SOME KINDA SCIENCE VAMPIRE?

HYPOTHETICALLY, IT COULD BE REPLICATED?



WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO DO THAT?

YOU KIDDING ME?

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY YOU COULD MAKE?



IS WHAT I AM PAYING YOU NOT ENOUGH FOR YOUR NEEDS?

BEEN A WHILE SINCE I CONSIDERED ANYTHING BEYOND THE CURRENT SCORE, BUT THIS SEEMS PROMISING.

DON'T GET DISTRACTED, MELTER. IF MONEY IS ALL YOU CARE ABOUT, THEN I WILL DOUBLE MY OFFER.

MONEY'S IMPORTANT, SURE, BUT ISN'T EVERYTHING. I'M THINKING ABOUT THE BIGGER PICTURE, SISTER.

POWER? NOW THAT'S WORTH A PAUSE, IS ALL I'M SAYING.



"...NO NEED
TO SHARE."

TAKE
IT EASY, DR.
MORBIUS. LET
HIM GO.

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND!



RESPONDING
TO AN ALARM AT A
BIG CHEMICAL LAB AND
FINDING A LIVING VAMPIRE
GNAWING THE NIGHT GUARDS
LIKE SNACKS? YOU'RE RIGHT,
I'M DEFINITELY MISSING
SOMETHING.

LAST I
HEARD, YOU
WERE PROTECTING
THE PEOPLE OF
BROWNSVILLE, THAT
SOME PEOPLE EVEN
CONSIDERED YOU
A HERO.

SO WHY
DON'T YOU PUT
THE NICE MAN
DOWN AND EXPLAIN
WHAT'S GOING
ON?



L-LEAVE
NOW.

I SWEAR
I WILL NOT KILL HIM,
BUT I...I MUST DO THIS--
HRRRAGGGGH!









QUICK
QUESTION--
HAVE YOUR BONES
ALWAYS DONE
THAT?

SEEMS
NEW.

YOU'RE
RIGHT. THAT
WAS RUDE
TO ASK.

IF YOU
WON'T TALK,
THEN I CAN'T
HELP YOU.

WHOA!









WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

I...I WAS ATTEMPTING TO CURE MYSELF, BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG.

MY CONDITION IS WORSENING AT AN EXPONENTIAL RATE.



I HAVE BEEN GETTING MY SUPPLIES FROM LESS-THAN-SAVORY SOURCES. FROM THOSE WHO HIDE IN THE SHADOWS OF THIS COMMUNITY AND SPREAD ROT.

BUT I WAS ATTACKED IN MY SANCTUARY, AND THE CHANGE, IT IS EXACERBATED BY PAIN AND VIOLENCE.

IT MAKES ME NEAR MINDLESS IN MY HUNGER.

I DO NOT WANT TO HURT ANYONE, BUT THE CHANGE IS CONSUMING ME. ONLY BLOOD SLOWS IT.



AM--AM I GOING TO START CHANGING?

NO. THIS IS MY CURSE TO BEAR. IT IS NOT CONTAGIOUS.

YOUR BLOOD, HOWEVER, MAY BE THE KEY TO FIXING IT.



PLEASE, IF I DO NOT STOP THIS, ALL THAT WILL BE LEFT OF ME IS A RAGING BEAST.

YOU ARE A MAN OF BOTH SCIENCE AND MERCY. PLEASE, HELP ME.



TWO CONDITIONS. ONE, NO MORE BITING PEOPLE. PERIOD.

TWO, AFTER THIS IS OVER, YOU ANSWER FOR WHAT YOU DID TO THESE PEOPLE.

IT WASN'T THE BEAST THAT ATTACKED THESE GUARDS. IT WAS YOU.

I...I WILL ACCEPT THESE CONDITIONS, AS MUCH AS I AM ABLE.

BUT TO KEEP TO THEM, WE MUST HURRY.

CURT CONNORS' SUMMER HOUSE.
LONG ISLAND.

THIS PLACE HAS A LOT OF HISTORY.

INDEED...

YES, I BELIEVE THIS WILL DO.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO YOUR LAB FOR YOUR NOTES?

IT SEEMS EVERYTHING I NEED IS ALREADY HERE.

BESIDES, THAT PLACE WAS COMPROMISED. I WOULD ONLY BE INVITING ANOTHER ATTACK.

FAIR ENOUGH.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? WHAT MADE YOU GO FROM TAKING DOWN THE BAD GUYS TO...WELL, THIS?

PLEASE, SPIDER-MAN, WE ARE HERE TO WORK.

WE CAN CATCH UP WHILE WE SCIENCE.



AFTER THE ROSE'S ATTACKS ON BROWNSVILLE, AND THE **RIGHTEOUSNESS** OF IT ALL, I FELT... RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVASTATION.

I SPENT TIME BROODING, BUT THEN BECKY-- ONE OF THE RESIDENTS AND THE CLOSEST THING TO A FRIEND I HAD--SHE FOUND ME.



"SHE MADE ME SEE THAT I WAS BETRAYING THE PEOPLE I HAD SWORN TO PROTECT BY SITTING BY WHEN THEY NEEDED ME THE MOST."



THIS PLACE HAD BEEN **RIPPED OPEN** WITH THE INTENTION OF BLEEDING IT DRY, OF REPURPOSING IT FOR THOSE WITH MONEY.

I DECIDED TO STRIKE AT THIS ENEMY WHERE IT WOULD HURT THEM THE MOST.



"I COST THE DEVELOPERS OVER A BILLION DOLLARS IN DAMAGES."

"WITHIN SIX MONTHS, ALL THE DEVELOPMENT THAT THREATENED TO DISPLACE THE COMMUNITY WAS SHUTTERED."

"THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LOST HOMES WAS COMPLETED BY THE CITY, AND THE PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO RETURN."



UNFORTUNATELY, WITH THE DEVELOPERS WENT ANY PLANS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE.

AS IF THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO DESERVE DIGNITY AND RESOURCES ARE THE ONES WHO CAN AFFORD TO WASTE THEM.



IT WAS MY BEING HERE THAT WAS PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION THAT CAME, AND I WAS OVERCOME WITH GUILT.

SO I LEFT. AND I TRAVELED.



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I AM
RENEWED IN
MY NEED TO FIND
A CURE FOR MY
CONDITION.



I AM
A DANGER
TO THE WORLD
AROUND ME AS I
AM. I MUST HEAL
MYSELF.



AS I
SUSPECTED.

THE MUTATION
PARTIALLY
REGRESSED BUT
HAS NOT STOPPED
COMPLETELY. LEFT
UNTREATED, I WILL
CONTINUE TO
MUTATE.



I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT
I'M LOOKING FOR, SINCE I'M
NOT FAMILIAR WITH YOUR
BASE SAMPLE--



OKAY, EVEN
I KNOW THAT
IS WONKY!

WHAT
THE HECK AM
I LOOKING
AT?!

A
MISTAKE.

I WAS
ATTEMPTING TO
REVERSE THE
ACCIDENT USING
AN UPDATED
SERUM.

IT WAS
SUPPOSED TO
ATTACK THE PARTS
OF MY DNA THAT HAD
MUTATED AND TO
ENCOURAGE THE
DORMANT DNA
TO REASSERT.

THAT WOULD
WORK IN *THEORY*,
BUT YOU DIDN'T ACCOUNT
FOR THE FACT THAT THERE
WAS NO WAY TO SPECIFICALLY
TARGET WHICH DNA
YOU WERE TRYING
TO DESTROY.

YOU JUST
ASSUMED THAT
YOUR NATURAL DNA
WOULD BE THE ONE
TO COME OUT
ON TOP.

THERE WAS AN ELEMENT OF
ASSUMPTION, YES, BUT
WITH GOOD REASON.

I USED
COMPONENTS
MEANT TO TARGET
THE ORIGINAL BAT DNA I
INJECTED INTO MYSELF,
NOT REALIZING THAT
THERE WAS NO REAL
SEPARATION
LEFT.

I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN THAT
I HAD BONDED TO
THE FOREIGN
MATERIALS.

SO WHAT
NOW?

SOME SORT OF
SUPPRESSANT?
JUST TO GET YOU
BACK TO BASE
LEVEL?

THEN I
WOULD BE BACK
TO SQUARE ONE.
NO, I STILL STRIVE
FOR A CURE.

AND WITH
YOUR HELP--
WITH YOUR BLOOD--
I THINK I CAN
FIND IT.



I DON'T MUCH LIKE THE IDEA OF BEING YOUR GUINEA PIG, DR. MORBIUS.

AND I HAVE NO DESIRE TO MAKE YOU ONE.

BUT SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR BLOOD HAS INTERACTED WITH MINE IN A WAY THAT COULD SAVE MY LIFE.



I WILL NOT BETRAY YOUR SECRETS OR EXPLOIT YOU.

BUT, PLEASE, IF YOU KNOW WHY...

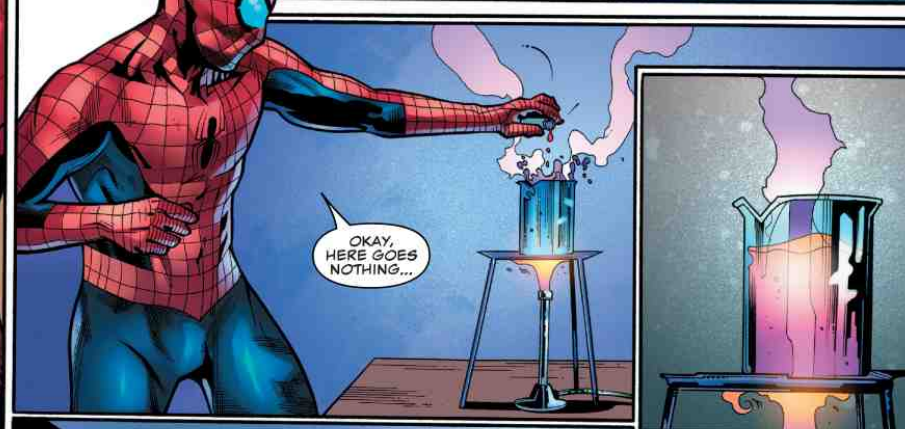
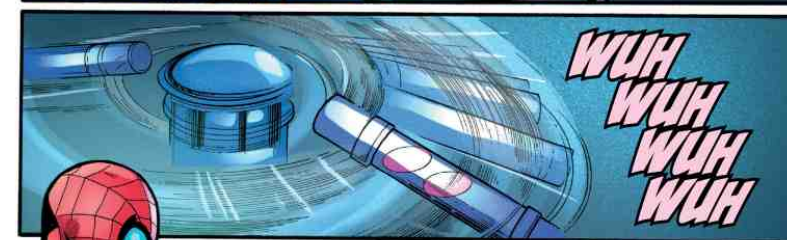
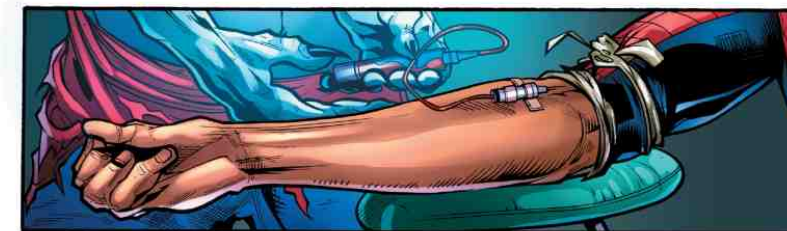


DO YOU HAVE IDEA WHAT THIS IS LIKE? TO BE SEEN AS A MONSTER-- THE SHAME OF BEING HELPLESS AGAINST THE BEAST INSIDE?

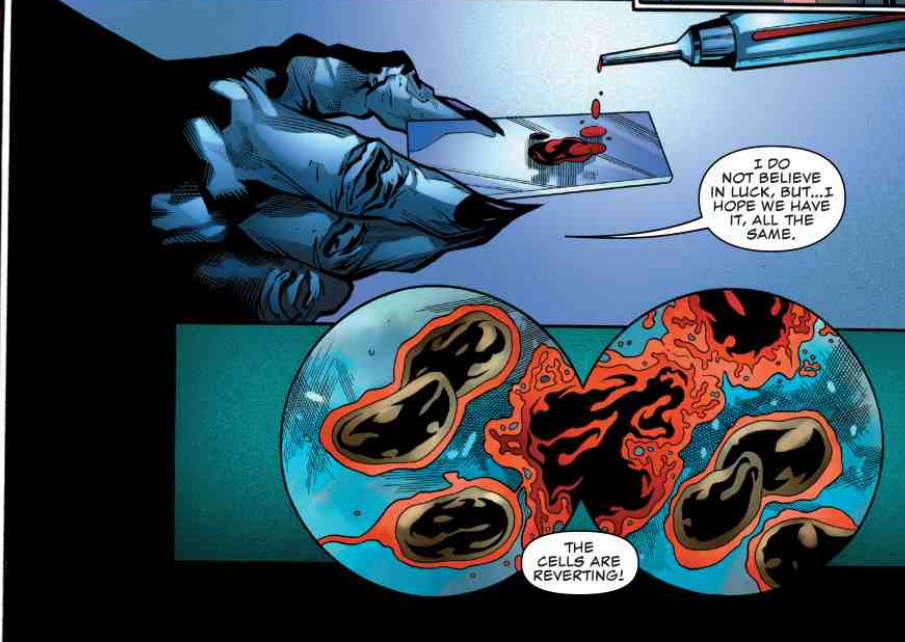


ALL RIGHT.

BUT YOU DON'T ASK ME WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT MY BLOOD, AND YOU ONLY TAKE AND USE WHAT YOU NEED. NO SAVING ANY FOR LATER.



OKAY, HERE GOES NOTHING...



I DO NOT BELIEVE IN LUCK, BUT...I HOPE WE HAVE IT, ALL THE SAME.

THE CELLS ARE REVERTING!



LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK!



REVERTING TO WHERE I WAS BEFORE MY LATEST TURN, BUT NOT TO HUMAN CELLS.

WE HAVE FAILED.



WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR HOURS, MORBIUS.

LET'S SAY WE'VE MADE GOOD PROGRESS AND PICK IT UP AGAIN AFTER A REST.

I CANNOT REST UNTIL I AM FREE OF THIS CURSE!

WE CONTINUE UNTIL I AM CURED, UNLESS YOU ENJOY THE IDEA OF LETTING A BLOOD-THIRSTY MONSTER WALK YOUR STREETS!

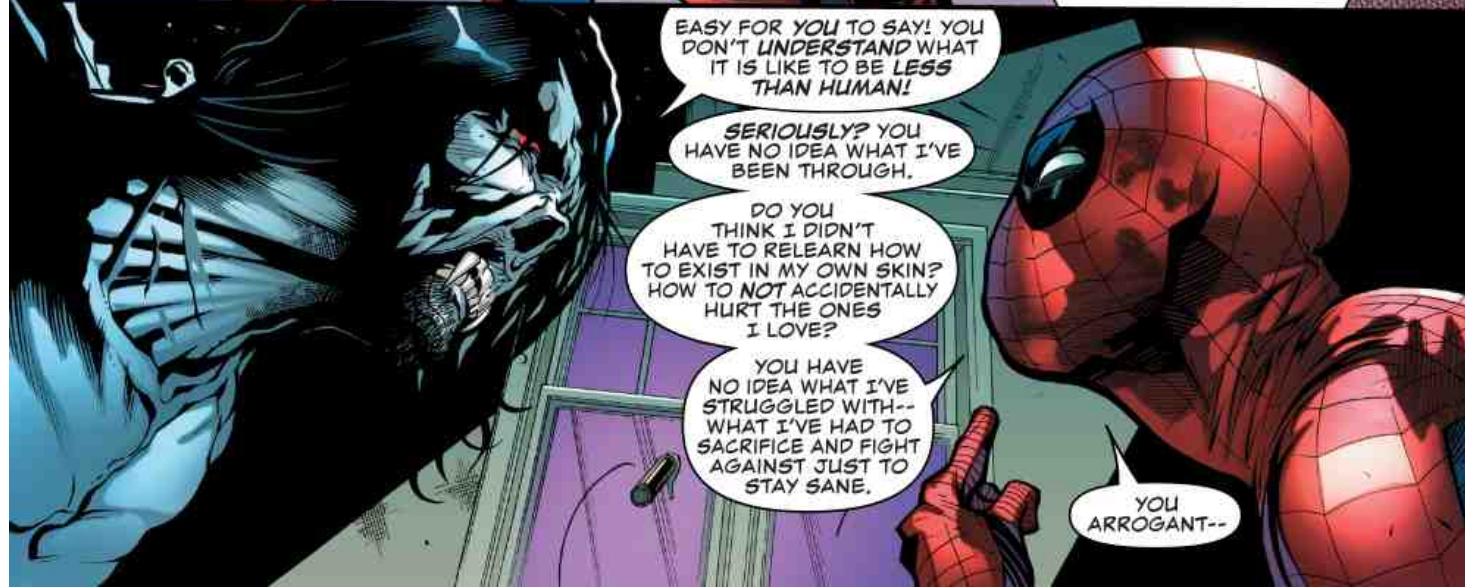


THIS IS A STEP IN THE PROCESS, BUT YOU HAVE TO START THINKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOUR MORE HUMAN VAMPIRE SELF MAY BE YOUR REAL SELF NOW.

WHAT IF THE CHOICES ARE GETTING YOU BACK TO YOUR BASELINE VAMPIRE SELF, OR GOING UNTIL WE DROP AND YOU LOSING YOURSELF?

NOT TO MENTION THAT STRESS AND EXHAUSTION MIGHT ACCELERATE YOUR CHANGE.

WORKING WITHOUT REST IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND WON'T GET YOU WHAT YOU WANT HERE.



EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE LESS THAN HUMAN!

SERIOUSLY? YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH.

DO YOU THINK I DIDN'T HAVE TO RELEARN HOW TO EXIST IN MY OWN SKIN? HOW TO NOT ACCIDENTALLY HURT THE ONES I LOVE?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'VE STRUGGLED WITH-- WHAT I'VE HAD TO SACRIFICE AND FIGHT AGAINST JUST TO STAY SANE.

YOU ARROGANT--

STAN'S SOAPBOX
FEBRUARY 1980

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Bear with me, gang. It's philosophy time again! I was having a discussion the other day with a professor pal of mine from U.C.L.A. about the so-called "generation gap," and I laid a few personal opinions on him that I'd like to share with you.

First, we're never gonna solve the generation gap till we stop seeking the wrong answers to the wrong questions. Every one yaps about young people being "different" nowadays. Forget it! Human nature doesn't change. It's the human condition that changes—it's the environment! What's happened to us is, the world has been wildly changing, producing new sets of rules each time you blink your eye. It's the social climate that's been changing, not you 'n me, Bunkyl!

Here, this'll show what I mean. Say you've got two homes, a large country estate and a small city apartment. You play your stereo full blast on your estate, but who cares? No one can hear it. You're not disturbing anyone. But play it just as loud in your small apartment with the paper thin walls and your neighbors wanna clobber you! You haven't changed. You're the same yoyo in both places. But the conditions are different!

The fact is, young people are the same as ever, the same noisy, scroungy, mangy, nutty, wonderful crazies they've always been — and adults are still the same grouchy, grunchy, goopy, hard-pressed and harassed heroes they've always been — and which you'll soon become! Nothing's changed but the labels. Which leads to point #2 —

None of us is all that different from each other. We all want essentially the same things outta life — a measure of security, some fun, some romance, friendship, and the respect of our contemporaries. That goes for Indians, Chinese, Russians, Jews, Arabs, Catholics, Protestants, blacks, browns, whites, and green-skinned Hulks. So why don't we all stop wasting time hating the "other" guys. Just look in the mirror, mister — that other guy is you!

Excelsior!

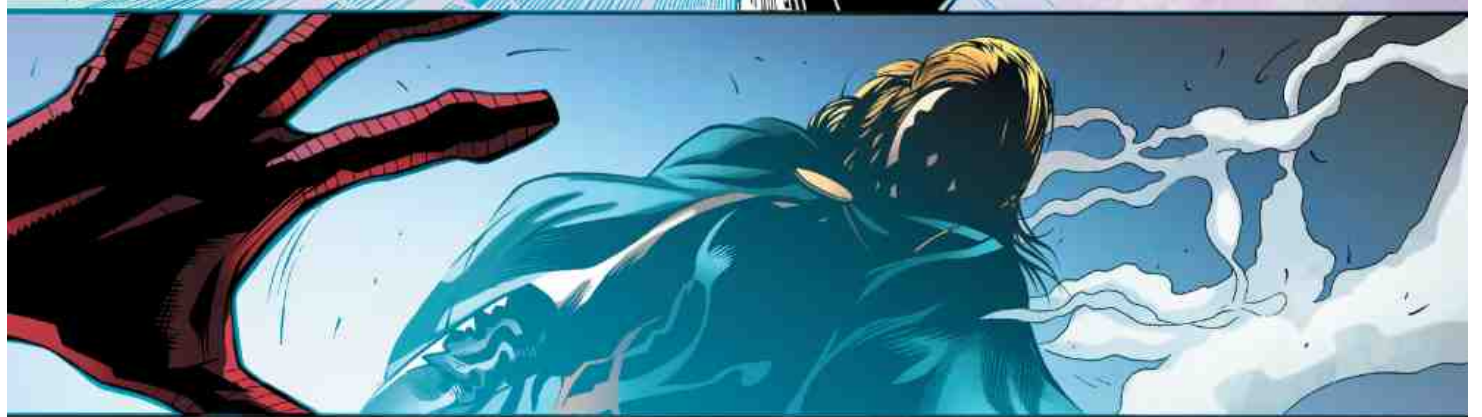
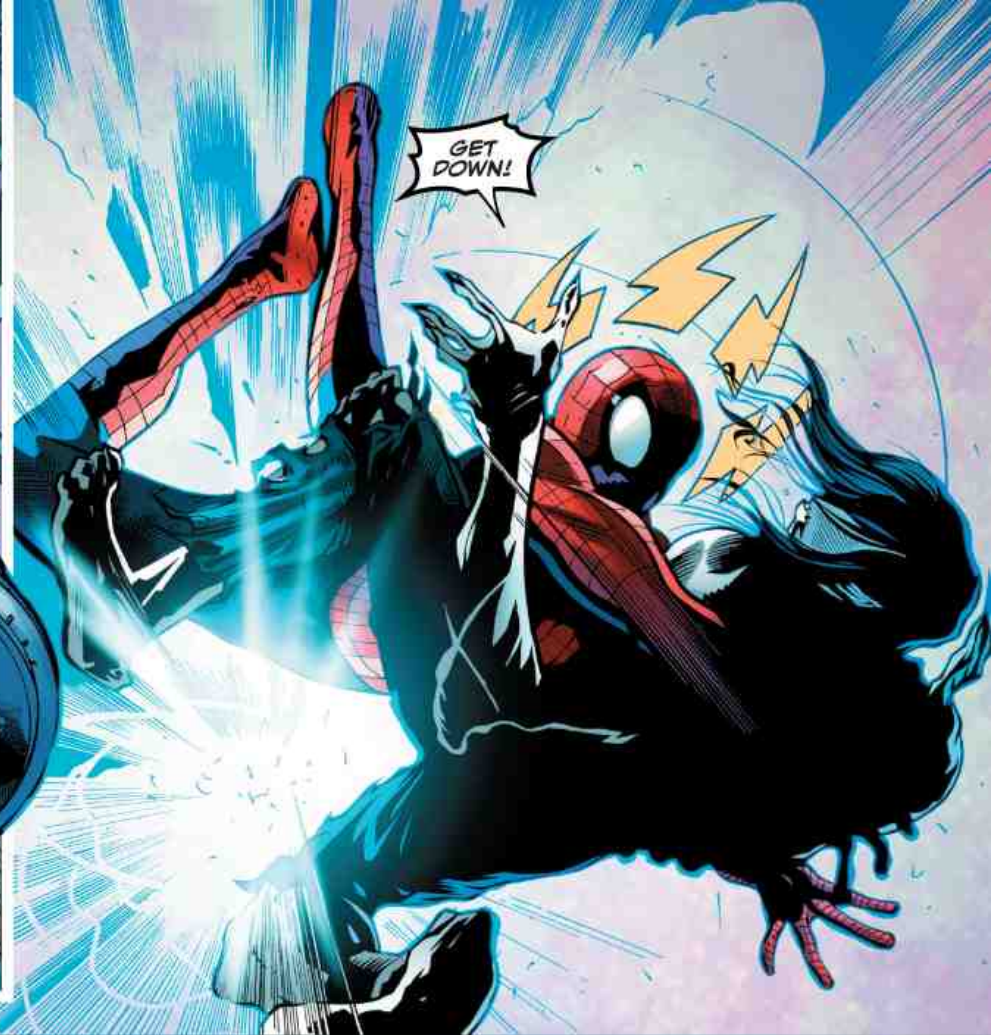
Stan



STAN LEE
FOREVER

- ❑ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #80 — We're keeping the secret of this story under our hats, but it stars the Thing and the Impossible Man! "Nuff said?
- ❑ SHOGUN WARRIORS #13 — The Shoguns face the villainy of (Demon Demonious!
- ❑ SPIDER-WOMAN #23 — Spider-Man is caught in the master plan of the Gamesman!
- ❑ ROM, SPACEKNIGHT #3 — The Coming of — FIREFALL!
- ❑ MACHINE MAN #13 — Machine Man vs. The Mysterious Crime Lord "Kool Khan.
- ❑ SPIDER-MAN #201 — The Punisher stalks Peter Parker!
- ❑ CAPTAIN AMERICA #249 — Cap caught up in the mind-bending plot of the Manipulator!
- ❑ THOR #292 — Thor journeys to strange dimension to seek the lost of Odin!
- ❑ MICRONAUTS #14 — Bug returns his native planet, Kallikax, and leads rebellion against his oldest foe WARTSTAFF!
- ❑ DR. STRANGE #39 — While pursued by Dormammu's writhing Strange goes to Paris and faces minions of Baron Mordo!
- ❑ GHOST RIDER #41 — Robbed memory, Johnny Blaze is up against the demon within him!
- ❑ FUN & GAMES #8 — Puzzles, Games. Outrageous fun!
- ❑ BATTLESTAR GALACTICA — More adventures of the Galactica Scavenge World, Will Starbuck ped there forever?
- ❑ HULK #244 — Hulk vs. It, the Colossus in "It Lives!"
- ❑ AVENGERS #192 — The Colossus! He was born in the blast furnace! And he lives to...
- ❑ CONAN #107 — More sword and sorcery action with the barbarian of all!
- ❑ MARVEL TALES #112 — Amazing Spider-Man #135: Man and the Punisher team the Tarantula!
- ❑ X-MEN #130 — Introduce DAZZLER! Soon to star Marvel series!
- ❑ POWERMAN AND IRON THUNDERBOLT returns! As Mark's attack! And just in Luke Cage's grave!
- ❑ FANTASYIC FOUR #21 — turn of Blastaar, the invincible!
- ❑ MARVEL TEAM-UP #8 — Man and the Band enter the Modular Man and the

HE STRIKES FROM
OUTER SPACE--



THIS
ENDS
NOW.



TO BE CONTINUED...

Next

#4



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